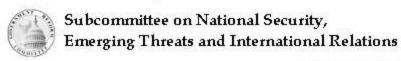
United States House of Representatives



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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Congressman Christopher Shays to Convene September 23rd Hearing on

"STRATEGIC WORKFORCE PLANNING AT USAID"

(Washington, DC) -- Congressman Christopher Shays (CT-4), Chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations, will convene an oversight hearing Tuesday to examine efforts of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to reshape its workforce to better meet new missions and methods. In particular, the hearing will look at why USAID does not have a strategic workforce plan and how this deficiency affects USAID efforts in post-conflict areas such as Afghanistan and Iraq.

GAO will release two reports, "Foreign Assistance: Strategic Workforce Planning Can Help USAID Address Current and Future Challenges" (GAO-03-946) and "Foreign Assistance: USAID's Operating Expense Account Does Not Fully Reflect the Cost of Delivering Foreign Assistance" (GAO-03-1152R) at the hearing. GAO will testify the lack of a strategic workforce plan at USAID endangers the ability of the agency to deliver humanitarian and development assistance effectively.

The Tuesday, September 23, 2003 hearing will convene at 10:00 a.m. in room 2247 of the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington, D.C.

Mr. John Marshall, Assistant Administrator for Management, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and Mr. Jess Ford, Director, International Affairs and Trade Division, General Accounting Office (GAO), will testify.